

have been striving for. The Congressional Budget Office has revealed that this plan would leave an unsettled deficit of at least \$69 billion by the year 2002. Additionally, his Medicare proposal does not keep the Medicare plan in balance for 10 years as he has proposed.

Furthermore, his savings in Medicare essentially amount to a shell game, moving expenses from part A to part B, out of the Medicare plan into the general revenue which comes out of general withholding of all taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the President send us an honest balanced budget, additionally that he send us a plan that will truly achieve solvency for the Medicare plan so that our seniors will be able to have the health care that they need.

#### HANDGUNS AND KIDS

(Mr. BLAGOJEVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, in Chicago on Monday, a man named Stephen Young told me that his oldest son had been killed by an 18-year-old with a handgun.

His son, Andrew, had earned the national ranking in speed skating and planned to attend a Chicago area tech school this fall. But the 18-year-old with the handgun put a stop to that outside a neighborhood fruit market. Andrew's father said, I was really looking forward to knowing him as a man. But the 18-year-old with the handgun put a stop to that as well.

Mr. Speaker, 18-year-old males have the highest arrest rates for weapons offenses, but Federal law still allows them to possess handguns. It is time we in Congress put a stop to that. In the memory of Andrew Young and the countless others who have fallen victim to gun violence, I am proud to introduce a bill that would make it illegal for anyone under 21 to possess a handgun.

I urge my colleagues to join me in stopping the lethal mix of kids and guns.

#### IMPROVE THE GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity, and I rise today to introduce legislation together with the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MCCARTHY] that would strengthen and improve the defense loan and technical assistance program, the so-called delta guaranteed loan program for small businesses.

As a former SBA Administrator, I saw firsthand the important relationship between defense industries and small businesses. Unfortunately in the

last decade with the downsizing of defense, we have seen areas of the country like my own Long Island, NY, region lose over 100,000 jobs as the defense industry cuts back.

This important delta program is needed to ease the transition between the defense-based business and moving them into other commercial applications. My legislation would provide for an extension of this important program for small businesses. It would expand the opportunities for small businesses to participate by allowing them to go back up to 7 years if they have done about 25 percent of their business in the defense industry. In addition, it would raise the guaranteed loan amount up to 90 percent so more banks could help small businesses. It is important legislation and I urge its consideration.

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#### KIDS-ONLY HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution regarding the Ten Commandments on the grounds that religious doctrine is the cornerstone of a just and fair society. Yet there are 61 countries around the world that ensure or provide health care for all of their workers and dependents. The United States is not one of them.

In this country our children are falling behind on many crucial health indicators. Ten million American children have no health insurance. Millions more do not have meaningful access to health care providers. Their parents have to rely on emergency services to care for their children.

This is unconscionable. Ninety percent of uninsured children have parents that work but they have no coverage for their children through their employers. We must take action to require insurance companies to provide kids-only health insurance and to provide a tax credit to help parents pay the premiums. A fair and just society provides for the health and welfare of its children, our future.

#### THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1, the Working Families Flexibility Act. Everett Dirksen once said nothing in the world can stop an idea whose time has come. Mr. Speaker, comp time is clearly such an idea.

This is a simple and straightforward piece of legislation that allows employees and employers the option of choos-

ing time off instead of overtime pay. In no way does this bill threaten the Fair Labor Standards Act, and in no way does this bill temper the rights of employees.

This is simply a bill which provides an option to help America's workers become full-time parents as well as full-time employees. Why do so many working men and women across America support comp time? They support comp time because it affords them choice.

For the mother of three working 40 hours a week, comp time means the choice to take time off and see her daughter's school play. For the father who is raising kids by himself, comp time means the choice to coach his son's little league team. And for the children of the 90's, comp time means a chance to spend more time with the two most important figures in their lives, their moms and dads.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1 as a means to an end. The means will be more choice for parents on how to manage their time, but more importantly, the end will be thousands of healthier, happier families. When this bill comes to the floor, I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### FIGHT FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago this country made a pact with our senior citizens. We promised our Nation's elderly that the Medicare Program would be there for them when they needed it most. Today the Medicare Program is one of our Nation's great success stories. Ninety-nine percent of our seniors have health care coverage in the United States today.

Last year Democrats stood up for our Nation's seniors and successfully fought to protect and preserve the Medicare Program. But surely our children are every bit as sacred as our senior citizens, and yet every day in this country another 3,300 kids lose their health insurance. This is a national crisis.

It is time for the Congress to focus on this problem because it is not going away. In fact, it is only getting worse. We need to stand up and fight for the health of our children just as we stood up and fought for the health of our seniors. We must act today and move the expansion of children's health care to the top of our legislative agenda.

#### SEND CONGRESS A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, you can't be a beacon if